

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/636,547

Applicant(s)

KOENIG, RICHARD

Examiner

Joon H. Hwang

Art Unit

2166

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to a telephone interview with Iver P. Cooper (Reg. No. 28,005) on 8/14/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 62,64 and 66-70 (renumbered as 1-7).
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>20060814</u> . |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. The applicant amended claims 62 and 69 and canceled claims 71-73 in the amendment received on 7/12/06.

The pending claims are 62, 64, and 66-70.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
3. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Iver P. Cooper (Reg. No. 28,005) on 8/14/06.
4. The application has been amended as follows:

Rewrite claim 62 as follows:

"62. A memory for storing data in a computer, the memory comprising:
a computer-readable storage medium;

(1) at least one user data structure stored in said medium, the user data structure comprising data concerning one or more users, wherein, for each user, the user data structure includes one or more fields providing contact information for the user, wherein the user is an expert or a customer;

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(2) an expert data structure stored in said medium, the expert data structure comprising data concerning one or more experts, wherein, for each expert, the expert data structure includes

(a) one or more fields defining at least one time period of availability of the expert for performing a project, and

(b) one or more fields defining at least one category of expertise or experience of the expert and a level of expertise or experience of the expert with respect to each said category;

(3) a project data structure stored in said medium, the project data structure comprising data concerning one or more projects, wherein, for each project, the project data structure includes

(a) one or more fields identifying a customer within said user data structure,

(b) one or more fields defining at least one desired time period of availability of an expert for performing the project,

(c) one or more fields defining a desired level of expertise or experience of the expert for performing the project in each of one or more categories of expertise or experience, and

(d) one or more fields defining a level of priority, to the customer within said user data structure for the project, of expertise equaling or exceeding each of desired levels of (c) above, said priority being specifiable independently of a desired level of expertise; and

(4) a match data structure resulting from comparison of said expert data structure with said project data structure, said match data structure assigning to each expert a match score taking into account a level of expertise or experience of an expert in each of one or more of categories of expertise or experience, a level of expertise desired by a customer in each of one or more of said categories, and a priority assigned by the customer to expertise in each of said categories, wherein matches in said match data structure are ranked, wherein the ranking is a weighted average, over categories specified as desired by the customer, of a difference between expert's level of expertise and customer's desired level of expertise, with customer's priority for each category being a weighting factor.”;

Rewrite claim 64 as follows:

“64. The memory of claim 62, wherein an expert is an expert in biological sciences and categories of expertise or experience relate to the biological sciences.”;

Rewrite claim 66 as follows:

“66. The memory of claim 62, further comprising a data structure indicating availability of contact information on one user to another user.”;

Rewrite claim 67 as follows:

“67. The memory of claim 62, wherein for each expert, a level of expertise or experience is defined on a hierarchical basis consisting of at least two tiers, and for

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each project, a desired level of expertise or experience and a priority of the desired level is defined on a hierarchical basis consisting of at least two tiers.”;

Rewrite claim 68 as follows:

“68. The memory of claim 64, wherein for each expert, a level of expertise or experience is defined on a hierarchical basis consisting of at least two tiers, and for each project, a desired level of expertise or experience and a priority of the desired level is defined on a hierarchical basis consisting of at least two tiers.”;

Rewrite claim 69 as follows:

“69. The memory of claim 62, further comprising:

(5) an access control data structure stored in said medium, the access control data structure comprising one or more fields specifying each user’s access to confidential information fields concerning another user, and the access control data structure permitting an access of an expert to confidential information of a customer to be controlled separately from an access of a customer to confidential information of an expert.”; and

Rewrite claim 70 as follows:

“70. The memory of claim 62, wherein for each expert, a level of expertise or experience is defined on a hierarchical basis comprising at least two tiers, and for each

project, a desired level of expertise or experience and a priority of the desired level is defined on a hierarchical basis comprising at least two tiers.”.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 62, 64, and 66-70 are allowed.

Claim 62 identify the distinct feature, “a match data structure resulting from comparison of said expert data structure with said project data structure, said match data structure assigning to each expert a match score taking into account a level of expertise or experience of an expert in each of one or more of categories of expertise or experience, a level of expertise desired by a customer in each of one or more of said categories, and a priority assigned by the customer to expertise in each of said categories, wherein matches in said match data structure are ranked, wherein the ranking is a weighted average, over categories specified as desired by the customer, of a difference between expert's level of expertise and customer's desired level of expertise, with customer's priority for each category being a weighting factor”, which are not taught or suggested by the prior art of records. The closest prior art, Walker et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,862,223) disclosing a system for expert matching, fails to suggest the claimed limitations as mentioned above in combination with other claimed elements. The above features in conjunction with all other limitations of the dependent and independent claims 62, 64, and 66-70 are hereby allowed.

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6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joon H. Hwang whose telephone number is 571-272-4036. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30-6:00(M~F).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hosain T. Alam can be reached on 571-272-3978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Joon Hwang
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8/14/06